

A Happy New Year to all our readers. Much has happened since the publication of Update 1. Our major news is that our application for registration as a British charity was successful, as the number at the bottom of the page indicates. We are now able to increase by 25% all gifts from UK taxpayers who are willing to complete a simple Gift Aid Form. Our next target is to register in Paraguay, which means the translation of all our governing documents into Spanish. That process is under way as you read this and will enable us to operate more effectively and, above all, to take legal ownership of the land in Paraguay which we aim to buy.

2008 Appeal. During the last few months we have set up our General Appeal, which will enable us to fund the purchase of land in Quy Quy Hó, continue to support the feeding programme at the Comedor and purchase a large 4x4 vehicle to transport supplies, children and volunteers. We have set our target at £20,000, which should permit all of these. The land we are hoping to buy is approximately 1 hectare or 10,000 square metres so we are asking our supporters to sponsor each square metre at £2 each. There is no maximum limit and a sponsor's or group's name can be allocated to one or more squares. We will make sure that each name is recorded in Sponsors' books to be kept in UK and Paraguay. Sponsorship forms are available on request. Simply write, phone or email us with your details. The picture (right) shows part of the land with an existing building which we hope to turn into the new Comedor but this will have a purpose-built kitchen and a sheltered permanent eating area.



Last summer we provided some medical and personal care for Dolores who was in the final stages of terminal cancer and had no resources to pay for treatment. Sadly she later died, leaving five children, and a husband struggling with alcoholism. Luis the eldest (15) stayed with his father. Julia (7) has been living with another lady in the village for some time. Oswaldo and Marie-Luisa have adopted the remaining three girls, Carmen (12), Anna (5) and Beatrice (2½). We pray that all will find peace, particularly Carmen and Anna who seem the most traumatised. Sponsorship through OSA has enabled Luis and Carmen to return to school. (Secondary education involves some expenditure which, although small, can put it out of reach to poor families. More information to follow in Update 3).

Volunteers for 2008. We are already making arrangements for volunteers to go out to Paraguay in July and August this year. Each individual will need to be self-funded. Costs will be approximately £1100-£1300 per person for a two-week stay, depending on flight prices, but a longer stay will add little to the costs. In addition, we hope that volunteers will also fund-raise to provide a significant contribution to the fund. At this stage we are unable to specify the precise nature of the work until land purchase is completed. Naturally there will be time to spend with the children but there may also be opportunities for building and setting up the new land and Comedor. Most will also be offered some time to see other aspects of Paraguay before returning home. Anyone interested should apply for further details.